

OLIVER WOOD.

APRIL 12, 1884.—Laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

Mr. VAN ALSTYNE, from the Committee on Claims, submitted the following

REPORT:

The Committee on Claims, to whom was referred the petition of Oliver Wood, for relief, respectfully report:

The papers show that Wood, on September 20, 1866, was duly appointed by the Postmaster-General a special agent of the Post Office Department, for Maryland, Delaware, and West Virginia, at a fixed salary of \$1,600 per year, and \$2 a day subsistence. Wood qualified and entered upon the discharge of his official duties and continued to serve until August 27, 1867, when the Postmaster-General revoked his appointment and discontinued his service and pay.

It is claimed by Mr. Wood that he was removed without cause and in contravention of public policy. The committee do not feel called upon to consider that question. The appointment was not for a definite time, but to continue during the pleasure of the Postmaster-General; the power therefore existed to remove claimant at any time, for or without cause.

The claimant was paid in full for salary and subsistence during the whole period of his service. If the committee were disposed to agree and sympathize with claimant for what he regards as ill usage on the part of the Government, they fail to find ground on which to predicate pecuniary relief. They report adversely to the claim and recommend that the petition lie upon the table.

